

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



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CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Senate amends flexible tariff provisions	1697	Labeling of California sardines in British South Africa	1702
Forecast of canned foods movement	1697	Proposed new food and drug regulations in Union of South Africa	1702
Truck crop markets	1699	Production and market for canned foods in the Bahamas	1703
Weather conditions	1699	Porto Rican imports of canned milk	1703
Business conditions	1700	Opportunity for sale of salmon and mackerel in Greece	1703
Farm price index declines	1700	Tests of sugar for canning	1704
Wholesale grocery trade in August	1700	Bulletin on spinach issued	1704
Price trends of canned foods	1701	Revised membership list being distributed	1704
Canadian regulations governing shipments of fish	1701		
Restrictions on sale of shellfish in Philippines	1702		

Senate Amends Flexible Tariff Provisions

Senate debate on the flexible provisions of the tariff bill ended Wednesday with the adoption of an amendment proposed by Senator Simmons, which takes from the President power to raise and lower duties. The Simmons amendment gives Congress sole power to act on the Commission's reports. It provides that no bill having for its object the carrying out of recommendations made by the Commission shall include any item not included in such report. Any increased or decreased duty recommended by the Commission may include the transfer of the article from the dutiable list to the free list, or vice versa, a change in the form of duty, or a change in classification.

On Thursday the Senate approved the Finance Committee's amendment directing the Tariff Commission to convert existing ad valorem duties to equivalent percentages on the basis of the domestic value plan, and report to Congress not later than January 1, 1932. It also restored to the bill the provision in the measure as passed by the House requesting the President to have a survey made of the bases for the valuation of imports on merchandise for the assessment of customs duties, which provision was eliminated from the bill as reported by the Finance Committee. Following action on the valuation feature, the Senate took up the question of the personnel of the Tariff Commission.

Forecast of Canned Foods Movement

Shipments of canned products, including ketchup, jams, jellies, olives, pickles, preserves, etc., during the months of October, November and December, will total 62,059 cars, according to an

estimate of the Shippers' Regional Advisory Board, which furnishes these estimates quarterly to the American Railway Association. The actual loadings of canned products during the last quarter of 1928 were 57,718 cars, and the estimate for the last quarter of this year indicates an increase of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Carload shipments of all commodities during the last few months of the present year, it is estimated, will be 2.3 per cent greater than in the corresponding period of last year.

Truck Crop Markets

Grape shipments exceeded those of any other fruit or vegetable during the week ended September 28, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Grapes averaged 1,300 cars each day. Apples, onions and citrus fruit also showed rather material gains, while potatoes and peaches decreased sharply. The season for watermelons and cantaloupes was about done. The week's total for 28 products increased to 32,700 cars, of which grapes, potatoes and apples together were 20,550 cars.

Cantaloupe movement was down to about 230 cars, mostly from Colorado. That state also furnished 190 of the week's 260 cars of cauliflower, but Utah was moving a considerable quantity.

Florida was the principal source of grapefruit; shipments increased to 230 cars, or nearly four times as many as a year ago. Oranges, chiefly from southern California, required 1,150 cars, compared with 570 during the same period last season.

Idaho still exceeded all other states as a source of fresh prunes and plums; about 780 cars rolled during the seven days.

Tomato shipments increased to 1,020 cars, of which California furnished 365, Indiana 225, New York 120 and Utah 105.

The peach season was fast drawing to a close, and the week's shipments were only 555 cars, compared with 2,050 the week before. New York and several western states were still sending limited supplies to market.

Movement of apples showed great gains, as the week's total mounted to 4,775 cars, of which nearly 3,500 came from the East. However, shipments were still about one-third lighter than a year ago. The Virginias furnished 2,065 cars last week, with New York State ranking next. Idaho was getting active in the West, and movement continued fairly heavy from Washington and California.

Shipments of sweet potatoes from all areas still exceeded 1,000 cars weekly, though movement from the Eastern Shore

decreased to 635 and Maryland and New Jersey originated only 70 each. Louisiana increased to 115.

Shipments of pears were gradually decreasing. Combined movement for the week was 1,565 cars. California dropped to 240, Oregon to 500, and Illinois to 170 cars, while Washington increased to 410 and Colorado to 120.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Sept. 22-28 1929	Sept. 15-21 1929	Sept. 22-29 1928	Total this season to Sept. 28	Total last season to Sept. 29	Total last season
Apples, total	4,773	3,106	7,721	18,038	27,231	127,521
Eastern states	3,476	2,316	3,991	13,967	16,341	62,700
Western states	1,299	790	3,730	4,151	10,710	64,821
Cabbage	907	714	1,102	27,203	22,787	38,833
Carrots	198	148	177	9,863	3,891	7,512
Cauliflower	260	128	144	1,904	827	9,889
Green peas	37	28	29	4,991	1,547	4,888
Mixed deciduous fruit	146	285	143	1,353	9,984	6,490
Mixed vegetables	470	382	515	26,727	27,890	33,284
Peaches	336	2,048	684	34,720	27,223	37,706
Pears	1,363	1,822	1,300	15,425	19,603	24,139
Peppers	83	66	148	2,099	3,139	3,360
Plums and prunes	781	870	280	3,534	7,098	7,293
Spinach	23	21	17	9,740	10,034	10,578
String beans	52	40	6	7,511	6,108	6,707
Tomatoes	1,019	712	736	27,301	26,975	30,357

Weather Conditions

The week ended October 1 was, as a whole, unusually warm in the Southwest and over a wide belt from northern Texas, Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas northeastward to the middle and north Atlantic areas, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau. It was also abnormally warm in the far Southwest, and the weekly means were moderately above normal in most of the Southeast. On the other hand, unusually cold weather for the season prevailed over the Northwest, the temperature averaging from 6 degrees to as much as 12 degrees below normal. Freezing weather occurred over a considerable area of the Northwest.

Rainfall was heavy to excessive rather generally in the southeastern states from eastern Alabama eastward, and from North Carolina southward. These heavy rains resulted from the tropical storm that was central over southern Georgia at the close of the week. Elsewhere precipitation was generally light to moderate, with a large area of the Southwest again having no rainfall. In the northern states from the Lake region westward generous and very helpful amounts were received in most sections. The Pacific Coast area was again practically rainless.

The sections needing moisture most include Michigan, the northern portions of Indiana and Illinois, Missouri, and eastern Kansas, while rains would be very helpful in the lower Mississippi Valley, thence west to Texas. The drought is also largely unrelieved in the grain sections of the Pacific northwest, but

from northern and eastern Idaho eastward to the upper Mississippi Valley the situation has materially improved through the generous rainfall of the week.

Corn is practically all beyond danger from frost in the western portion of the belt, while the warm weather in central and eastern sections was rather favorable for advancement; no material additional frost damage has occurred.

Business Conditions

The volume of money turnover during the week ended September 28, as indicated by check payments, was smaller than in the preceding week but greater than a year ago, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The movement of freight by rail as indicated by data on car-loadings covering the latest reported week continued to show gains over the corresponding period of last year.

The general index of wholesale prices showed declines from both the preceding week and the same week of last year.

Bank loans and discounts showed practically no change from the previous week but were higher than in either period.

Business failures were more numerous than in either the preceding week or the same week of 1928.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended September 21	1,166,330	171,984	271,344	423,002
Preceding week	1,153,062	161,298	269,242	419,522
Corresponding week, 1928	1,144,131	160,303	266,658	415,170
Corresponding week, 1927	1,126,402	417,513	269,036	469,823

Farm Price Index Declines

The index of the general level of farm prices, at 141 per cent of the pre-war level on September 15, was 2 points lower than on August 15 and was the same as a year ago, according to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The decline from August 15 to September 15 is attributed to moderate declines in the prices of all meat animals, except veal calves, and lower farm prices of apples, potatoes, cottonseed, rye, barley, wool, and chickens. The farm price of flaxseed, however, advanced to the highest level on September 15 since August, 1920. Egg prices also showed a sharp seasonal advance.

Wholesale Grocery Trade in August

Wholesale distribution increased more between July and August than is usual at this season, according to reports made to the Federal Reserve System from firms in eight lines of trade.

Increased sales were general throughout the country and were shown for all reporting lines except meat. The largest increases over the previous months were in the sales of dry goods, men's clothing, and furniture.

Grocery sales were 2 per cent greater than in July, 1929, and one-tenth of 1 per cent greater than in August last year.

Changes in sales and stocks of wholesale grocers, by districts, are shown in the following table (decreases being indicated by a minus sign) :

District	Sales: August, 1929 compared with		Stocks: August, 1929 compared with	
	July, 1929	August, 1929	July, 1929	August, 1929
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
United States	2.0	0.0	2.7	- 4.9
Boston	- 6.4	4.4
New York	0.1	7.5	2.9	1.6
Philadelphia	0.6	3.6	- 1.3	- 2.8
Cleveland	6.3	7.2	4.6	-12.5
Richmond	2.9	- 0.8	6.3	2.2
Atlanta	5.8	4.0	11.3	16.6
Chicago	0.5	- 3.4	1.9	-12.9
St. Louis	3.5	0.1	3.5	- 4.6
Minneapolis	2.0	- 3.0	- 1.0	- 4.0
Kansas City	9.7	-14.4	10.6	-11.1
Dallas	3.0	- 3.4	3.8	- 1.0
San Francisco	- 2.3	1.4	2.7	10.4

Price Trends of Canned Foods

Following are the average wholesale prices of specified canned foods as compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The purpose of these averages is to show trends, and they cannot be properly used to estimate margins between wholesale and retail prices:

	August, 1929	July, 1929	August, 1929
Milk, condensed, per case, New York	\$6.175	\$6.125	\$6.125
Milk, evaporated, per case, New York	4.450	4.300	4.300
Salmon, canned, Alaska, red, per dozen cans, factory	2.800	2.695	2.725
Peaches, 2½'s, per dozen, New York	1.775	1.775	1.775
Pineapple, 2½'s, per dozen, New York	2.250	2.400	2.388
String beans, 2's, per dozen, New York625	1.150	1.150
Corn, 2's, per dozen, factory975	.975	.975
Pens, 2's, per dozen, New York	1.225	1.300	1.300
Tomatoes, 3's, per dozen, New York	1.500	2.000	1.500

Canadian Regulations Governing Shipments of Fish

Details of the new Canadian regulations governing the construction and capacity of containers and the method of packing, marking, and inspecting such containers and the fish they contain, adopted by Order-of-Council of July 2, 1929, under the authority of the Fish Inspection Act, may be obtained by request from the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or direct from the Bureau, in Washington.

Restrictions on Sale of Shellfish in Philippines

The Director of Health in Manila has forbidden the sale or offering for sale of shellfish, such as oysters, talangca, balay and other local shellfish, in the city and elsewhere in the province, unless sold alive or in cans, according to a report received by the Department of Commerce from the assistant trade commissioner at Manila. This step was taken by the Bureau of Health in view of recent findings of the health officials indicating that a great number of cases of intestinal diseases, particularly dysentery, is caused by eating poorly prepared shellfish.

Labeling of California Sardines in British South Africa

As a result of protests of British and Dutch exporters the customs authorities of British South Africa have recently ruled that the California product labeled "Herring in Tomato Sauce" is misbranded, since their experts have advised that herring do not frequent the Pacific Coast waters. The ruling is in abeyance pending proof by the importers of the European herring that the American fish was cutting into their business. It is more than probable that the regulation will be enforced, according to reports to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Meanwhile, the original ruling regarding sardines has been revised, and is now in line with the practice in this country. Therefore, the California sardine or pilchard may be sold under the name of "Sardine." It must be borne in mind, however, that this ruling is subject to change, and it may be eventually required that the labeling of the California fish be the same as for sale in the United Kingdom.

Proposed New Food and Drug Regulations in Union of South Africa

Draft regulations issued under the Food, Drugs and Disinfectants Act, 1929, of the Union of South Africa, were published in the Government Gazette of July 5, according to information received by the Department of Commerce from the Johannesburg Office. It is expected that these regulations with such amendments or additions as may be decided on, will come into force simultaneously with the act of January 1, 1930. The regulations include instructions as to labeling, preservatives and coloring, flavoring and artificial sweetening substances in food. (Information concerning specific commodities may be obtained upon request to the Division of Foreign Tariffs, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce).

Production and Market for Canned Foods in the Bahamas

A considerable proportion of the canned goods consumed in the Bahamas is imported from the United States, the only commercial canning locally being done by four small establishments, three of which can tomatoes and the fourth turtle soup and turtle meat, according to information contained in a report from the American consul at Nassau. The efforts of one of these factories, located in Nassau, to pack pineapples, guavas, sapodillas and other domestic products have met with indifferent success, and the industry is now confining its activities to tomatoes, of which approximately 3,000 cases are canned each season. Last winter investigations and experiments were conducted with a view to producing tomato paste for the local market, and one firm contemplates packing about 1,000 cases of this product in addition to its usual output of canned tomatoes during the coming season.

The two other tomato canneries are said to have a combined output of about 1,000 cases annually. Practically all of this is sold locally. The importation of American canned tomatoes is believed to afford sufficient competition to preclude any considerable development of the domestic industry.

Last winter preparations were undertaken for the establishment of a cannery to produce canned turtle soup and turtle meat. Production began on a small scale early in 1929 and several shipments have been made to the United States where the bulk of the output is expected to find a market. So far about 3,000 cases, mostly soup, have been shipped to this country.

If efforts to restore the extensive growing of citrus fruits and increase the production of vegetables are successful, and the supply of turtles should prove large, it may be that canning will become an industry of some importance in the Bahamas.

Porto Rican Imports of Canned Milk

Condensed and evaporated milk to the amounts of 5,567,007 pounds, valued at \$673,803 was imported by Porto Rico during the year ended June 30, 1929, according to the American trade commissioner at San Juan. Of this total the United States supplied 5,490,552 pounds valued at \$665,676.

Opportunity for Sale of Salmon and Mackerel in Greece

The office of the American commercial attache at Athens has reported to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that there is a good market in Greece for American canned salmon and mackerel. The Bureau is therefore asking that firms

interested in shipping low and medium price brands to Greece forward full particulars, including quotation c. i. f. Piraeus via direct steamer from New York, as well as labels, to the Bureau for transmittal to the office of the commercial attache, which will bring them to the attention of concerns interested in agency representations.

Tests of Sugar for Canning

During the canning season the research laboratory made bacteriological examinations of a number of samples of sugar submitted by various canners, to be tested for their suitability in canning peas and corn. One sample was received September 9, consisting of six sub-samples in envelopes marked "M1 to M6," which bore no mark of identification and concerning which no letter was received. The results of the test of this sugar would be of interest to the canner who submitted it. Any canner who has submitted a sugar sample and has received no report should communicate with the research laboratory.

Bulletins on Spinach Issued

Two bulletins on spinach have recently been issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Maryland at College Park, Md. One of these (Bulletin 307) is a study of spinach varieties with reference to their canning qualities. The other (Bulletin 312) deals with the field behavior, habits of growth, and classification of varieties of spinach based on horticultural usage. Each bulletin is well illustrated and contains a reference list of the literature cited.

Revised Membership List Being Distributed

The membership List of the National Canners Association, revised to September, 1929, has been received from the printer and copies are being mailed to all members of the Association. Copies are also being furnished to the members of the National Wholesale Grocers Association, the American Wholesale Grocers Association, the National Food Brokers Association, and the National Chain Store Association, and to wholesale grocers who are members of state associations but not affiliated with either the National or the American Association.